A

DECLARATION OF THE CAVSES MOOVING THE QVEENE OF ENGLAND to giue aide to the Defence of *the People afflicted and* oppreſſed in the lowe *Countries.*

=Burghley, William Cecil = 1st baron.

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A DECLARATION OF THE CAVSES MOVING THE QVEENE OF ENGLAND to giue aide to *the Defence of the People afflicted and oppreſſed in the lowe Countries.*

ALthough Kinges and Princes Soueraignes, ovving their homage and ſeruice onely vnto the Almightie God the king of al kings, are in that reſpect not bounde to yeeld account or render the reaſons of their actions to any others but to God their only Soueraigne Lorde: and that amongſt the moſt ancient and Chriſtian Monarches the ſame Lorde GOD hath committed to vs the Soueraignetie of this Realme of *Englande* and other our dominions, vvhich vvee holde immediatly of the ſame Almighty Lord, and ſo thereby accountable onely to his diuine Maieſtie: yet vve are notvvithſtanding this our prerogatiue at this time ſpecially mooued, for diuers reaſons hereafter briefly remembred, to publiſh not onely to our ovvne naturall louing Subiectes, but alſo to all others our neighbours, ſpecially to ſuch Princes and States as are our Confederates, or haue for their Subiectes cauſe of commerce vvith our Countreis and people, vvhat our intention is at this time,

Kinges and Princes Soueraignes, are to yeeld account of their actions onely to almighty God, the King of Kings.

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and vpon what iuſt and reaſonable groundes we are mooued to giue aid to our next Neighbours the naturall people of the lowe Countries, being by long warres and perſecutions of ſtrange Nations there, lamentablie afflicted, and in preſent danger to bee brought into a perpetuall ſeruitude.

Naturall cauſes of the Ancient continuall traffique betwixt the people of England and them of the lowe countries.

Firſt it is to be vnderſtoode (which percaſe is not perfectly knowen to a great nomber of perſons) that there hath beene, time out of minde, euen by the natural ſituation of thoſe low Countreis and our Realme of Englande, one directly oppoſite to the other, and by reaſon of the ready croſsing of the Seas, and multitude of large and commodious Hauēs reſpectiuely on both ſides, a continuall traffique and commerce betwixt the people of Englande, and the Naturall people of theſe lovve Countries, and ſo continued in all ancient times when the ſeueral Prouinces thereof, as *Flanders*, *Holland*, and *Zeland*, and other Countries to them adioyning, were ruled and poſſeſſed by ſeuerall Lordes, and not vnited together, as of late yeeres they haue beene by entermariages, and at length by concurrences of many and ſundrie titles haue alſo beene reduced to be vnder the gouernment of their Lordes that ſucceeded to the Dukedome of *Burgundie*, wherby there hath beene in former ages many ſpeciall alliances and confederations, not onely betvvixt the Kinges of England our Progenitours and the Lordes of the ſaid countries of *Flanders*, *Holland*,

Confederations both betwixt ȳ Kings of England and Lordes of the low Countries, and alſo the ſubiects of both Countries.

Holland, Zeland, and their adherentes: but alſo betwixt the very naturall ſubiectes of both Countries, as the Prelates, Noblemen, Citizens, Burgeſſes, and other Comminalties of the great Cities and porte Townes of either countrie reciproquelie by ſpeciall Obligations and Stipulations vnder their Seales interchangeablie, for maintenãce both of commerce and entercourſe of Marchantes, and alſo of ſpeciall mutuall amitie to bee obſerued betwixt the people and inhabitants of both parties as well Eccleſiaſticall as Secular: and very expreſſe prouiſion in ſuch Treaties conteined for mutuall fauours, affections, and all other friendly offices to bee vſed and proſecuted by the people of the one Nation towardes the other. By which mutuall Bondes, there hath continued perpetuall vnions of the peoples heartes together, and ſo by way of continuall entercourſes, from age to age the ſame mutuall loue hath bene inuiolablie kept and exerciſed, as it had bene by the worke of nature, and neuer vtterly diſſolued, nor yet for any long time diſcontinued, howſoeuer the kinges, and the Lordes of the countries ſometimes (though very rarely) haue bene at difference by ſiniſter meanes of ſome other Princes their Neighbours, enuying the felicitie of theſe two Countries.

The people of both the Countries bound by ſpeciall obligations enterchangeablie, for mutuall fauours & friẽdly offices.

And for maintenance and teſtimonie of theſe natural vnions of the peoples of theſe kingdoms and countries in perpetuall amitie, there are extant

Treaties extant of anciēt time, betwixt the Kinges of England and the Dukes of Burgundie, for the commerce betwixt their Countries.

extant ſundrie autentique Treaties and Tranſactions for mutuall commerce, entercourſe and ſtraight amitie of ancient times: as for example, ſome very ſolemnely accorded in the times of King *Henrie* the ſixth our progenitour, and *Philip* the ſecond Duke of *Burgundie*, and inheritour to the Countie of *Flanders* by the Ladie *Margaret* his Grandmother, which was aboue one hundred and fortie yeeres paſt, and the ſame alſo renewed by the noble Duke *Charles* his ſonne, Father to the King of *Spaynes* Grandmother, and husbād to the Ladie *Margaret* ſiſter to our great Grandfather King *Edward* the fourth: and after that, of newe oftentimes renewed by our moſt Noble and ſage Grandfather King *Henrie* the ſeuenth, and the Archduke *Philip* Grandfather to the King of *Spayne* now being: and in later times, often renewed betwixt our Father of Noble memorie King *Henrie* the eight, and *Charles* the fifth Emperour of *Almaigne*, Father alſo to the preſent King of *Spaine*.

Conuentions for ỹ ſubiectes of either ſide, to ſhewe mutuall fauours one to the other.

In all which Treaties, Tranſactions, and Confederations of amitie and mutuall commerce, it was alſo at all times ſpecially and principally contained in expreſſe wordes, by conuentions, concordes and concluſions, that the naturall people and ſubiects of either ſide, ſhould ſhewe mutuall fauours and dueties one to the other, and ſhould ſafely, freely and ſecurely commerce together in euery their countries, & ſo hath the ſame mutuall and naturall concourſe and commerce

merce bene vvithout interruption continued in many ages, farre aboue the like example of any other coũtries in Chriſtendome, to the honour and ſtrength of the Princes, and to the ſingular great benefite and enriching of their people, vntill of late yeeres that the King of *Spayne* departing out of his lovve countries into *Spayne*, hath beene (as it is to be thought) counſelled by his counſellers of *Spayne*, to appoynt *Spaniardes*, forreners and ſtrangers of ſtrange blood, men more exerciſed in vvarres then in peaceable gouernment, & ſome of thẽ notably delighted in blood, as hath appeared by their actions, to be the chiefeſt gouernours of all his ſayde lovve countries, contrary to the ancient lavves & cuſtomes thereof, hauing great plentie of noble, valiant and faithfull perſons naturally borne, and ſuch as the Emperour *Charles*, and the King himſelfe had to their great honours vſed in their ſeruice, able to haue bene employed in the rule of thoſe countries. But theſe *Spaniardes*, being meere ſtrangers, hauing no naturall regarde in their gouernement to the maintenance of thoſe coũtries and people in their ancient and natural maner of peaceable liuing, as the moſt noble and vviſe Emperour *Charles*, yea, & as his ſonne king *Philip* himſelfe had, vvhileſt he remained in thoſe countries, and vſed the counſels of the States & natural of the coũtries, not violating the ancient liberties of the coũtries: but contraryvviſe, theſe *Spaniardes* being exalted to abſolute gouernmẽt, by ambition, and for priuate lucre haue violẽtly

Spanyards and ſtrangers lately appoynted gouerners in the lowe Countries, to the violation of the liberties of the Countrie.

broken the ancient lawes and liberties of all the countries, and in a tyrannous sort haue banished, killed and destroyed without order of lawe within the space of a fewe monethes, many of the most ancient and principall persons of the naturall nobilitie that were most worthie of gouernement. And howe so euer in the beginning of these cruell persecutions, the pretence thereof was for maintenance of the Romish religion, yet they spared not to depriue very many Catholiques and Ecclesiasticall persons of their franchises and priuiledges: and of the chiefest that were executed of the Nobilitie, none was in the whole countrie more affected to that religion then was the noble and valiant Countie of *Egmond*, the very glorie of that countrie, who neither for his singular victories in the seruice of the king of *Spaine* can be forgotten in the true histories, nor yet for the crueltie vsed for his destruction, to bee but for euer lamented in the heartes of the naturall people of that countrie. And furthermore, to bring these whole countries in seruitude to *Spaine*, these forreine gouernours haue by long intestine warre, with multitude of *Spaniardes*, and with some fewe *Italians* and *Almains*, made the greater part of the said countries (which with their riches by common estimation, answered the Emperour *Charles* equally to his *Indias*) in a maner desolate, and haue also lamentably destroyed by sworde, famine, and other cruell maners of death, a great part of the naturall people, and nowe the rich townes and strong places being

The destruction of the Nobilitie, and the people of the Countries by the Spanish gouernment.

The lamentable violent death of the Countie of Egmond, the glory of those Countries.

The riche townes and strengthes with y wealth

being desolate of their naturall inhabitants, are held & kept chiefly with force by the *Spanyardes*. thereof possessed by the Spaniardes.

All which pitifull miseries and horrible calamities of these most rich countries and people, are of all their neighboures at this day, euen of such as in auncient tyme haue bene at frequent discord with them, thorowe naturall compassion very greatly pitied, which appeared specially this present yeere, when the *Frenche* king pretended to haue receiued them to his protection, had not (as the States of the countrey and their deputies were answered) that certayne vntimely and vnlooked for complottes of the house of *Guyse*, stirred and maintained by money out of *Spayne*, disturbed the good and generall peace of *Fraunce*, and thereby vrged the king to forbeare from the resolution hee had made, not onely to ayde the oppressed people of the lowe countries against the *Spanyardes*, but also to haue accepted them as his owne subiectes. But in verie trueth, howsoeuer they were pitied, and in a sort for a tyme comforted and kept in hope in *Fraunce* by the *Frenche* king, who also hath oftentymes earnestly solicited vs as Queene of *Englande*, both by message and writing to bee carefull of their defence: yet in respect that they were otherwise more straightly knitte in auncient friendship to this realme then to any other countrie, wee are sure that they could bee pitied of none for this long tyme with more cause and griefe generally, then of our subiects

The French kings offers to haue aided & receiued to his subiection the oppressed people of the lowe Countries.

of this our realme of *England*, being their moſt ancient allies and familiar neighbours, and that in ſuch maner, as this our realme of *England* and thoſe countries haue bene by cõmon language of long time reſembled and termed as man and vvife. And for theſe vrgent cauſes and many others, vve haue by many friendly meſſages and Ambaſſadours, by many letters and vvritings to the ſaid king of *Spayne* our brother and allie, declared our compaſſion of this ſo euill and cruel vſage of his naturall and loyall people by ſundrie his martiall gouernoures and other his men of warre, all ſtrãgers to theſe his countries. And furthermore, as a good louing ſiſter to him, and a natural good neighbour to his lowe countries and people, wee haue often, and often againe moſt friendly warned him, that if hee did not otherwiſe by his wiſedome and princely clemencie reſtraine the tyranny of his gouernours and crueltie of his men of warre, wee feared that the people of his countries ſhoulde bee forced for ſafetie of their liues, and for continuance of their natiue countrie in their former ſtate of their liberties, to ſeeke the protection of ſome other forreyne Lord, or rather to yeelde themſelues wholy to the ſoueraigntie of ſome mightie Prince, as by the ancient lawes of their countries, and by ſpeciall priuiledges graunted by ſome of the Lordes and Dukes of the countries to the people, they doe pretend and affirme, that in ſuch caſes of general iniuſtice, and vpon ſuch violent

The Queene of Englandes continuall frendly aduices to the king of Spaine for reſtraining of the tyrannie of his gouernours.

violent breaking of their priuileges they are free from their former homages, and at libertie to make choiſe of any other prince to bee their prince & Head. The proofe whereof, by exãples paſt is to be ſeene & read in the ancient hiſtories of diuers alterations, of the lordes and ladies of the countries of *Brabant*, *Flanders*, *Holland*, and *Zeland*, and other countries to them vnited by the States & people of the countries, and that by ſome ſuch alterations, as the ſtories doe teſtifie, *Philip* the Duke of *Burgundy* came to his tytle, from which the king of *Spaynes* intereſt is deriued: but the further diſcuſſion hereof, we leaue to the viewe of the monuments and recordes of the countries. And now for the purpoſes to ſtay them from yeelding themſelues in any like ſort to the ſoueraigntie of any other ſtrange Prince, certaine yeeres paſt, vpon the earneſt requeſt of ſundrie of the greateſt perſons of degree in thoſe countries, and moſt obedient ſubiects to the King, ſuch as were the Duke of *Aſcot*, and the Marques of *Haucry* yet liuing, and of ſuch others as had principall offices in thoſe countreis in the time of the Emperour *Charles*, wee yeelded at their importunate requeſts, to graunt them preſts of money, onely to continue them as his ſubiects, and to maintaine themſelues in their iuſt defence againſt the violence and cruelties of the *Spaniards* their oppreſſours, thereby ſtaying them from yeelding their ſubiectiõ to any other Prince frõ the ſaid king of *Spayne:* and during the

The Queene of Englandes meanes vſed to ſtaie the States of the lowe countries from yeelding their ſubiection to any other forreine Prince.

time of that our aide giuen to them, and their ſtay in their obedience to the king of *Spaine*, wee did freely acquainte the ſame king with our actions, and did ſtill continue our friendly aduices to him, to moue him to commaund his gouernours and men of warre, not to vſe ſuch inſolent cruelties againſt his people, as might make them to deſpayre of his fauours, and ſeeke ſome other Lorde.

And in theſe kinde of perſwaſions and actions wee continued many yeeres, not onely for compaſſion of the miſerable ſtate of the countries, but of a naturall diſpoſition to haue the ancient conditions of ſtraight amitie and cõmerce for our kingdomes and people to continue with the States & the people of the ſaide Dukedome of *Burgundie* and the appendants, and namely with our next neyghbours the countries of *Flanders*, *Holland* and *Zeland*. For wee did manifeſtly ſee, if the nation of *Spayne* ſhoulde make a conqueſt of thoſe countries, as was and yet is apparantly intended, and plant themſelues there as they haue done in *Naples* and other countries, adding thereto the late examples of the violent hoſtile enterpriſe of a power of *Spanyardes*, being ſent within theſe fewe yeeres by the king of *Spayne* and the *Pope* into our Realme of *Ireland*, with an intent manifeſtly confeſſed by the captaines, that thoſe nombers were ſent aforehand to ſeaſe vpon ſome ſtrength there, to the intent with other greater forces to purſue a conqueſt thereof:

The enterpriſe of the Spaniardes in Ireland ſent by the king of Spayne and the Pope.

thereof: wee did we ſay againe, manifeſtly ſee in what danger our ſelfe, our countries and people might ſhortly bee, if in conuenient time wee did not ſpeedily otherwiſe regard to preuent or ſtay the ſame. And yet notwithſtanding our ſayde often requeſts and aduiſes giuen to the King of *Spayne*, manifeſtly for his owne weale & honour, wee founde him by his counſell of *Spayne* ſo vnwilling in any ſort to encline to our friendly counſell, that his gouernours and chiefetaines in his lowe countries increaſed their cruelties towardes his owne afflicted people, and his officers in *Spayne* offered dayly greater iniuries to ours, reſorting thither for traffique: yea, they of his counſell in *Spayne*, woulde not permit our expreſſe meſſenger with our letters to come to the King their maſters preſence: a matter very ſtrange, and againſt the lawe of nations.

The refuſall of ỹ Queenes meſſenger, and her letters to the King of Spayne.

And the cauſe of this our writing and ſending to the King, proceeded of matter that was worthy to be knowen to the King, and not vnmeete nowe alſo to be declared to the worlde, to ſhewe both our good diſpoſition towardes the King in imparting to him our grieues, and to let it appeare howe euill we haue beene vſed by his miniſters, as in ſome part may appeare by this that followeth. Although wee coulde not haue theſe many yeeres paſt any of our ſeruaunts whome we ſent at ſundrie times as our Ambaſſadours to the King our good brother as was meete, ſuffered to continue there without many iniuries and indigni-

The iuſt cauſes of diſmiſſing of Bernardin Mendoza out of England.

indignities offered to their families, and diuers times to their owne perſons by the greateſt of his Counſellours, ſo as they were conſtrained to leaue their places, and ſome expelled and in a ſort baniſhed the Countrey, without cauſe giuen by them, or notified to vs: yet we, minding to continue very good friendſhip with the king, as his good Siſter, did of long time and many yeeres giue fauourable allowance to all that came as his Ambaſſadours to vs, ſauing onely vpon manifeſt daungerous practiſes attempted by two of them to trouble our eſtate, whereof the one was *Girald Deſpes*, a very turbulent ſpirited perſon, and altogether vnskilfull & vnapt to deale in Princes affaires being in amitie, as at his retourne into *Spayne* hee was ſo there alſo reputed: The other and laſt was *Bernardin de Mendoza*, one whome we did accept and vſe with great fauour a long time, as was manifeſtly ſeene in our Court, and we thinke cannot be denied by himſelfe, but yet of late yeeres (we know not by what direction) we found him to be a ſecret great fauourer to ſundrie our euill diſpoſed and ſeditious ſubiectes, not onely to ſuch as lurked in our Realme, but alſo to ſuch as fled the ſame being notoriouſly condemned as open Rebelles and Traitours, with whome by his letters, meſſages and ſecret counſels hee did in the ende deuiſe howe with a power of men, partly to come out of *Spayne*, partly out of the low Countries, wherof hee gaue them great comfort in the Kinges name,

name, an inuaſion might bee made into our Realme, ſetting downe in writing the manner howe the ſame ſhould be done, with what numbers of men and ſhippes, and vpon what coaſtes, portes & places of our Realme by ſpecial name, and who the perſons ſhould be in our Realme of no ſmall account, that ſhould fauour this Inuaſion and take part with the Inuadours, with many other circumſtances declaring his full ſet purpoſe and labours taken, to trouble vs and our Realme very dangerouſly, as hath beene moſt clearely proued and cõfeſſed by ſuch as were in that confederacie with him, whereof ſome are fled & now do frequent his companie in *France*, and ſome were taken, who confeſſed at great length by writing the whole courſe herein helde by the ſaide Ambaſſadour, as was manifeſtly of late time publiſhed to the worlde vppon *Francis Throgmortons* a principall Traitours examination. And when we found manifeſtly this Ambaſſadour ſo dangerous an inſtrument, or rather a Head to a rebellion and Inuaſion, and that for a yeere or more together hee neuer brought to vs any letter from the King his Maſter, notwithſtanding our often requeſt made to him that hee woulde by ſome letter from the King to vs, let it appeare that it was the Kings will that he ſhould deale with vs in his Maſters name in ſundrie thinges that he propounded to vs as his Ambaſſadour, vvhich vvee did iudge to be contrary to the Kinge his Maſters vvill: vvee did finally

cauſe him to be charged wth theſe dãgerous practiſes, & made it patẽt to him how, & by whõ, with many other circũſtances we knew it, & therfore cauſed him in very gẽtle ſort to be cõtent within ſome reſonable time to depart out of our realme, the rather for his own ſafety, as one in very deed mortally hated of our people: for the which, we graũted him fauorable cõduct, both to the ſea & ouer the ſea: & thereupon we did ſpeedily ſend a ſeruãt of ours into *Spaine* wth our letters to the king, only to certify him of this accidẽt, & to make the whole matter apparant vnto him: & this was the meſſẽger afore mẽcioned, y^t might not be ſuffred to deliuer our meſſage or our letters to the king.

Barnardin Mendoza fauourably licenſed to depart the Realme.

And beſide theſe indignities, it is moſt manifeſt how his miniſters alſo haue both heretofore many times, & now lately practiſed here in *England* by meanes of certaine rebelles, to haue procured ſundry inuaſions of our Realme, by their forces out of *Spayne* & the low Countries: very hard recõpences (we may ſay) for ſo many our good offices. Hereupõ we hope no reaſonable perſon cã blame vs, if we haue diſpoſed our ſelues to chãge this our former courſe, & more carefully to look to the ſafety of our ſelfe & our people: & finding our owne dãgers in deed very great & imminẽt, we haue bene the more vrgently prouoked to attempt & accelerate ſome good remedy, for that beſides many other aduices giuẽ vs both at home and frõ abrode, in due time to withſtãd theſe dãgers, we haue found the general diſpoſition of al our own faithful people very ready in this caſe, &

earneſt

earneſt in offring to vs both in Parliaments & otherwiſe, their ſeruices w̄ their bodies & blood, & their aides with their lands & goods, to withſtand & preuent this preſent common danger to our Realme & thēſelues, euidently ſeene & feared by the ſubuerting & rooting vp of the anciēt natiō of theſe low coūtries, & by plāting the *Spaniſh* nation & men of warre, enemies to our coūtries, there ſo nere vnto vs. And beſides theſe occaſions & cōſiderations, we did alſo cal to our remembrāce our former fortunate proceeding by Gods ſpecial fauor, in ẏ beginning of our reigne, in remedying of a like miſchief that was intēded againſt vs in *Scotlād* by certaine *French* men, who then were directed only by the houſe of *Guiſe*, by colour of the mariage of their Neece the Queene of *Scots* with the *Dolphin* of *Frāce*, in like maner as the offſprings of ẏ ſaid houſe haue euē now lately ſought to attaine to the like vnordinate power in *France*: a matter of ſome cōſequēce for our ſelues to cōſider, although we hope the king our good brother profeſſing ſincere frendſhip towards vs, as we profeſſe the like to him, will moderate this aſpiring greatnes of that houſe, ẏ neither himſelfe nor ẏ Princes of his bloud be ouerruled, nor wee (minding to cōtinue perfect frendſhip with the king & his bloud) be by the ſaid houſe of *Guiſe* and their faction diſquieted or diſturbed in our Countries. But nowe to returne to this like example of *Scotlande* aforeſaide, when the *French* had in like maner (as the *Spanyardes* haue nowe of long time attempted in the lowe Countries)

The Queene of Englandes proceeding for the deliuerie of Scotland from the ſeruitude wherein the Houſe of Guyſe meant to haue brought it.

ſought by force to haue ſubdued the people there, and brought them into a ſeruitude to the Crowne of *France*, and alſo by the ambitious deſires of the ſaide houſe of *Guiſe*, to haue proceeded to a warre by vvay of *Scotland*, for the conqueſt of our crowne for their Neece the Queene of *Scottes* (a matter moſt manifeſt to the common knovvledge of the vvorlde:) it pleaſed Almightie God, as it remaineth in good memorie to our honour and comfort, to further our intention and honourable and iuſt actions at that time in ſuch ſort, as by our aiding then of the nation of *Scotland* being ſore oppreſſed with the *French*, and vniuerſally requiring our aide, wee procured to that Realme (though to our great coſt) a full deliuerance of the force of ſtrangers and danger of ſeruitude, & reſtored peace to the whole Countrie, which hath continued there euer ſince many yeeres, ſauing that at ſome time of parcialities of certaine of the Noble men, as hath beene vſuall in that Countrie, in the mynoritie of the yong King there hath riſen ſome inward troubles, which for the moſt part we haue in fauour of the King and his Gouernours vſed meanes to pacifie: ſo as at this day ſuch is the quietnes in *Scotland*, as the King our deare brother and couſin, by name, *Iames* the ſixth, a Prince of great hope for many good Princely reſpectes, raigneth there in honour and loue of his people, and in very good and perfect amitie with vs and our Countrie. And ſo our actions at

The Realme of Scotlande reſtored to the ancient freedome, and ſo poſſeſſed by the preſent King by the meanes onely of the Queene of England.

at that time came to ſo good ſucceſſe by the goodnes of God, as both our owne Realme, and that of *Scotland*, hath euer ſince remained in better amitie and peace then can bee remembred theſe manie hundred yeeres before, and yet nothing heereby done by vs, nor any cauſe iuſtly giuen, but that alſo the *French* kinges that haue ſince ſucceeded, which haue bene three in number, and all brethren, haue made and concluded diuers treaties for good peace with vs, which preſently continue in force on both parties, notwithſtanding our foreſaide actions attempted for remooving out of *Scotland* of the ſaide *French* forces, ſo tranſported by the onely direction of the houſe of *Guyſe*.

The concluſion of the cauſes of ſending of certaine companies of engliſh ſouldiers to the defence of the oppreſſed people of the low countries, and to withſtand the attemptes againſt this Realme.

And therefore, to conclude for the declaration of our preſent intention at this time, wee hope it ſhall of all perſons abroad be well interpreted, as wee knowe it will be of ſuch as are not ledde by parciallitie, that vpon the often & continuall lamentable requeſts made to vs by the vniuerſall States of the countries of *Holland*, *Zeland*, *Guelders* & other prouinces with them vnited (beeing deſperate of the king of *Spaynes* fauours) for our ſuccours to bee yeelded to them, onely for their defence againſt the *Spaniards* and other ſtrangers, and therewith finding manifeſtlie by our often and importunate requeſts and aduices giuen to the king of *Spaine*, no hope of reliefe of theſe their miſeries, but rather an increaſe therof by dayly cõqueſts of their townes

and ſlaughter of their people, (though in very trueth wee cannot impute the increaſe of any late cruelties to the perſon of him that now hath the tytle of generall gouernour, ſhewing his naturall diſpoſition more inclynable to mercie and clemencie, then it ſeemeth hee can direct the heartes of the *Spaniardes* vnder him, that haue bene ſo long trayned in ſhedding of blood vnder the former *Spaniſh* gouernors:) And ioyning thereunto our owne dāger at hand, by the ouerthrow & deſtructiō of our neighbours, and acceſſe & planting of the great forces of the *Spanyards* ſo neere to our coūtries, with precedēt arguments of many troubleſome attemptes againſt our Realme: we did therfore by good aduice and after long deliberation determine, to ſende certaine companies of ſouldiers to ayde the naturall people of thoſe countries, onely to defende them and their townes from ſacking and deſolation, and thereby to procure them ſafetie, to the honour of God, whome they deſire to ſerue ſincerely as chriſtian people according to his holy word, and to enioye their ancient liberties for them and their poſteritie, and ſo conſequently to preſerue and contynue the lawful and ancient commerce betwixt our people and thoſe countries and ours.

Engliſh power ſent onely to defende.

And ſo, we hope our intention herein, & our ſubſequent actions will be by Gods fauour both honorably and charitably interpreted of all perſons (ſauing of the oppreſſors thēſelues, & their partizans)

partizans)in that wee meane not heereby,either for ambition or malice,(the two rootes of al iniuſtice)to make any particular profit hereof to our ſelfe or to our people,onely deſiring at this time to obtaine by Gods fauour for the countries,A deliuerãce of thẽ from warre by the *Spaniardes* and Forraines,with a reſtitution of their ancient liberties & gouernement by ſome chriſtian peace,And thereby, a ſuretie for our ſelues and our realme to be free from inuading neighbours,And our people to enioy in thoſe coũtries their lawful commerce & entercourſe of friendſhip & marchandiſe, according to the ancient vſage and treaties of entercourſe, made betwixt our Progenitors and the Lordes and Earles of thoſe countries,and betwixt our people and the people of thoſe countries.

Three ſpecial things reaſonably deſired by the Queene of England.
1. The ende of wars with Reſtitutiõ of the low Countries to their anciẽt liberties.
2. Suretie from inuaſiõ of her owne Realme.
3. And renewing of the mutual Traffique betweene the Countries.

And though our further intentiõ alſo is or may be to take into our garde, ſome fewe townes vpõ the ſea ſide next oppoſite to our realme, which otherwiſe might be in danger to be taken by the ſtrãgers,enemies of the coũtry:yet therein conſidering we haue no meaning at this tyme to take and retaine the ſame to our owne proper vſe, we hope that al perſons wil thinke it agreeable with good reaſon & princely policie, that we ſhould haue the gard & vſe of ſome ſuch places for ſure acceſſe & receſſe of our people & ſoldiers in ſafety, & for furniture of them with victuals & other things requiſite and neceſſary, whileſt it ſhall be needful for them to cõtinue in thoſe coũtries for the

The cauſes of taking ſome Townes into her Maieſties cuſtodie.

the aiding therof in theſe their great calamities, miſeries, and imminent daunger, and vntill the countries may be deliuered of ſuch ſtrãge forces as do now oppreſſe them, and recouer their ancient lawfull liberties and maner of gouernement to liue in peace as they haue heeretofore done, and doe nowe moſt carneſtly in lamentable manner deſire to doe, which are the very onely true endes of all our actions nowe intended, howſoeuer malitious tongues may vtter their cankred conceits to the contrary, as at this day the worlde aboundeth with ſuch blaſphemous reportes in writings and infamous libels, as in no age the Deuill hath more abounded with notable ſpirites repleniſhed with all wickedneſſe to vtter his rage againſt profeſſours of Chriſtian Religion. But thereof we leaue the reuenge to God the ſearcher of hearts, hoping that he beholding the ſinceritie of our heart, wil graunt good ſucceſſe to our intentions, whereby a Chriſtian peace may enſue to his diuine honour, and comfort to al them that loue peace truely, and wil ſeeke it ſincerely.

¶ An

AN ADDITION TO THE DECLARATION: TOVCHING THE SLAVNders publiſhed of her *Maieſtie*.

AFter we had finiſhed our declaration, there came to our hands a Pamphlet written in *Italian*, printed at *Milan*, entituled *Nuouo aduiſo*, directed to the Archbiſhop of *Milan*, conteyning a report of the expugnation of *Anwerpe* by the Prince of *Parma:* by the which we found our ſelfe moſt maliciouſly charged with two notable crimes, no leſſe hatefull to the worlde, then moſt repugnant and contrary to our owne naturall inclination. The one, with ingratitude towards the King of *Spaine*, who (as the authour ſaith) ſaued our life being iuſtly by ſentence adiudged to death in our ſiſters time: The other, that there were ſome perſons procured to be corrupted with great promiſes, and that with our intelligence as the reporter addeth in a parentheſis in theſe wordes *(as it was ſaid)* that the life of the Prince of Parma ſhould be taken away: and for the better prooving and countenancing of this horrible lie, it is further added in the ſaide

Pamphlet, that it pleaſed the Lorde God to diſcouer this, and bring two of the wicked perſons to iuſtice. Now, knowing howe men are maliciouſly bent in this declining age of the world, both to iudge, ſpeake and write maliciouſly, falſly and vnreuerently of Princes: and holding nothing ſo deare vnto vs, as the conſernation of our reputation and honour to be blameleſſe: we found it verie expedient, not to ſuffer two ſuch horrible imputations to paſſe vnder ſilence, leaſt for lacke of anſwere, it might argue a kinde of guiltineſſe, and did therefore thinke, that what might be alledged by vs for our iuſtification in that behalfe, might moſt aptly be ioyned vnto this former Declaration nowe to be publiſhed, to lay open before the worlde the maner and ground of our proceeding in the cauſes of the lowe Countreyes.

And for anſwere of the firſt point wherewith wee are charged touching our ingratitude towardes the King of *Spaine*, as we do moſt willingly acknowledge that we were beholding vnto him in the time of our late ſiſter, which we then did acknowledge very thankefully, and haue ſought many wayes ſince in like ſort to requite, as in our former Declaration by our actions may appeare: ſo doe wee vtterly denie as a moſt manifeſt vntrueth, that euer he was the cauſe of the ſauing of our life as a perſon by courſe of Iuſtice ſentenced vnto death, who euer carried our ſelfe towardes our ſaid ſiſter in duetifull ſort, as our loyaltie was neuer called in queſtion, much leſſe any ſentence

of

of death pronounced againſt vs: a matter ſuch, as in reſpect of the ordinarie courſe of proceeding, as by proceſſe in Lawe, by place of triall, by the Iudge that ſhould pronounce ſuch ſentence, and other neceſſary circumſtances in like caſes vſuall, eſpecially againſt one of our qualitie, as it coulde not but haue bene publiquely knowen, if any ſuch thing had bene put in execution. This then being true, wee leaue to the worlde to iudge howe maliciouſly and iniuriouſly the authour of the ſaide Pamphlet dealeth with vs, in charging vs by ſo notable an vntrueth with a vice that of all others we doe moſt hate and abhorre. And therefore by the manifeſt vntrueth of this imputation, men not tranſported with paſſion may eaſely diſcerne what vntrueth is conteined in the ſecond, by the which wee are charged to haue bene acquainted with an intended attempt againſt the life of the ſaid Prince: a matter if any ſuch thing ſhould haue bene by vs intended, muſt haue proceeded either of a miſlyking wee had of his perſon, or that the proſecution of the warres in the lowe Countreyes was ſo committed vnto him, as no other might proſecute the ſame but he.

And firſt for his perſon, we could neuer learne that he hath at any time, by acte or ſpeache, done any thing that might iuſtly breede a miſlike in vs towards him, much leſſe a hatred againſt his perſon in ſo high a degree, as to bee either priuie or aſſenting to the taking away of his life: Beſides, he is one of whom we haue euer had an honourable

conceite, in reſpect of thoſe ſingular rare partes we alwaies haue noted in him, which hath wonne vnto him as great reputation, as any man this day liuing carrieth of his degree and qualitie: and ſo haue we alwayes deliuered out by ſpeache vnto the world, when any occaſion hath bene offered to make mention of him. Nowe, touching the proſecution committed vnto him of the warres in the lowe Countreys, as all men of iudgement knowe that the taking away of his life carrieth no likelyhood that the ſame ſhall worke any ende of the ſaid proſecution: ſo is it manifeſtly knowen, that no man hath dealt more honourablie then the ſaide Prince, either in duely obſeruing of his promiſe, or extending grace and mercie where merite and deſerte hath craued the ſame: and therefore no greater impietie by any coulde bee wrought, nor nothing more preiudiciall to our ſelfe, (ſo long as the King ſhall continue the proſecution of the cauſe in that forcible ſort he now doeth) then to be an inſtrument to take him away from thence by ſuch violent meanes, that hath dealt in a more honourable and gracious ſort in the charge committed vnto him, then any other that hath euer gone before him, or is likely to ſucceede after him.

Nowe therefore how vnlikely it is, that we hauing neither cauſe to miſlike of his perſon, nor that the proſecution of the warres ſhoulde ceaſe by loſſe of him, ſhould be either authour, or any way aſſenting to ſo horrible a fact, wee referre to

the

the iudgement of ſuch as looke into cauſes, not with the eyes of their affection, but doe meaſure and weigh things according to honour and reaſon. Beſides, it is likely if it had bene true that we had bene any way chargeable, (as the author reporteth) the confeſſions of the parties executed, (importing ſuch matter, as by him is alledged) would haue bene both produced and publiſhed: for malice leaueth nothing vnſearched, that may nouriſh the venime of that humour.

The beſt courſe therefore that both we and all other Princes can holde in this vnfortunate age that ouerfloweth with nombers of malignant ſpirits, is through the grace and goodneſſe of Almightie God, to direct our courſe in ſuch ſort, as they may rather ſhewe their willes through malice, then with iuſt cauſe by deſert, to ſay ill, or deface Princes either by ſpeach or writing: aſſuring our ſelues, that beſides the puniſhment that ſuch wicked and infamous libellours ſhall receiue at the handes of the Almightie for depraying of Princes and lawfull Magiſtrates who are Gods miniſters, they both are and alwayes ſhall be thought by all good men, vnworthie to liue vpon the face of the earth.

Giuen at Richmount the firſt of October, 1585. and the 27. yeere of the reigne of our Soueraigne Lady the Queene, to be publiſhed.